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CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

Porto Rico: Past and Present, and San Domingo of To-day. By A. Hyatt Verrill. 357 pp. Map, ills. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1914. \$1.50. 8 x 5½.

A good description of Porto Rico, based upon personal observation. Porto Rico has some 800 miles of excellent roads, suitable for the touring car; and the denudation of the native forest growth enhances the views obtainable from the automobile. A really first-class hotel with up-to-date accommodations is said to be much desired. The Porto Ricans have a custom of planting climbing vines about the unsightly poles which support the wires conveying electric power. The inhabitants are said to be thoroughly loyal to this country and ready to fight in its behalf. English, although the official language, is not as much in use as Spanish, and does not appear to be gaining the ascendancy. To bring this about, it would at least be necessary to teach English in the public schools.

DAVID H. BUEL.

Cuba: Past and Present. By A. Hyatt Verrill. 257 pp. Map, ills. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1914. \$1.50. 8 x 5.

A most sympathetic, and yet impartial account of the "Pearl of the Antilles," designed to meet the wants of the prospective tourist or settler. It is stated that Cuba has benefited in every way by freedom from Spanish rule. While the usual tourist's description of native manners and customs, of points of interest, and of national history is entertaining, one of the most noteworthy portions of the book is that which removes the idea, prevalent in this country, that the Isle of Pines is an Eldorado for settlers from the United States. While not denying that there is some good land on the island, and that some of our citizens have done well there, the writer insists that at least a third of the land is worthless and that the rest is less fertile and productive than that of Cuba, and our people are advised not to think of settling there. Much is made of the Commercial Clerks' Club of Havana, which seems very much like our Young Men's Christian Association. The chapter "A Few Facts and Figures" is important, giving an account of the area and population, the climate and rainfall of the interior, health and sanitation, and trade and finances.

DAVID H. BUEL.

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil and the Brazilians. By G. J. Bruce. vii and 307 pp. Ills., index. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1914. \$3. 9 x 6.

A book, far above the usual tourist record, of his first experiences in a foreign land. The writer is a practiced observer of the races of men dwelling in the tropical belt. His contention is that the researches of anthropologists and ethnologists in regard to the aborigines of Brazil have as yet given only negative results. He considers the racial amalgam known as the modern Brazilian as active, energetic, intelligent, affable and impressionable. Only in his attitude toward the women of his household does he find him lacking in the modern spirit of courtesy, respect and veneration. He regards the cannibalism of some of the Indian tribes of the Amazon as a savage outpouring of hatred of an enemy which by civilized man is expressed by social ostracism. The account of the diamond and rubber industries and of the flora and fauna of Brazil, especially of the Amazon, is both instructive and interesting. The author says that Brazil is reaching out into world commerce and world politics and that in the near future, in union with Argentina and Chile, the A-B-C alliance will become a rising factor to be reckoned with as a world power.

DAVID H. BUEL.

Bolivia: Its People and Its Resources, Its Railways, Mines and Rubber-Forests. By Paul Walle. Translated by Bernard Miall. 407 pp. Maps, ills., index. T. Fisher Unwin, London. C. Scribner's Sons, New York, 1914. \$3. 9 x 6.

A more than usually thorough description of Bolivia, by an experienced

observer, who, through two visits, twelve years apart, is well fitted to note its progress. We are assured that Bolivia, although stripped of its sea-coast through the fortunes of war, is making sure and steady progress in all that tends to its own betterment. Political conditions are now more stable, and really patriotic and enlightened men are directing the destinies and policy of the nation. Of course, the obstacles to be overcome in development work along modern lines are manifold. The greatest of these is the exploitation of the native Indian races on all sides. Statistics are given to show that, under their unfair and harsh treatment, the native population is diminishing, while the hardier half-breed population is on the increase. Commercial development is also slow, and facilities for transportation are primitive and inadequate. Popular education is still in its infancy and coördination of higher education is lacking. The principal industries are rubber, in which Bolivia is second only to Brazil, cocoa, and the mining of gold, silver, tin, copper, and bismuth. The llama, the alpaca, the vicuña, and the chinchilla are indigenous and thriving, but the commercial possibilities which they afford are not much utilized. The book is an excellent English translation from the original French.

DAVID H. BUEL.

The Young Man's Chances in South and Central America: A Study of Opportunity. By William A. Reid. 173 pp. Southern Commercial Congress, Washington, D. C., 1914. \$1. 7½ x 5½.

What are the chances of success in South and Central America for men from the United States? In this book the author answers the question, and he knows his subject, for he was associated with the South Americans for twelve years and has carried on commercial inquiries throughout Central and South America.

The occupations in South America in which men from the United States might engage and the chances of success are considered for agriculture, engineering, salesmanship, teaching, journalism, manufacturing, hotel business, law, insurance, banking, medicine, dentistry, hospitals, nursing, etc. The salaries and living expenses in Brazil are cited as typical of what will be found throughout the continent. Stories of success and of failure are given, and it is shown how necessary for success it is to have a knowledge of Spanish, or in Brazil of Portuguese, as well as an understanding of the peoples' characteristics and of their modes of carrying on business.

Several large syndicates of the United States which are developing South America are described. "The greatest official fount of knowledge of Latin-American affairs is the organization, at Washington, known as the Pan-American Union," whose plan and purpose Mr. Reid proceeds to describe. In the appendix are lists of the companies, with offices in the United States, that are engaged in active construction work in Latin-America, some of the leading periodicals of the United States that pay special attention to those regions, and prominent United States firms engaged in trade with them.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

In Deutschland und Brasilien. Lebenserinnerungen von Gustav Stutzer. 2nd edit. 363 pp. Ills. H. Wollermann, Braunschweig, 1913. Mk. 4. 9 x 6.

An interesting story of a life full of incident. Passing over Stutzer's account of his life at home, we may say that he also lived long in Brazil and gives an admirable picture of life there, among German colonists and natives alike. It is good reading. If he adds little to our knowledge, his own literary gift makes his book worth while. The colonies in the interior, into the nineties, were productive, but without access to markets because of difficulties of transportation. He made no Brazilian friends and gained no sympathy with Brazilian ideals, though he speaks very warmly of Brazilian manners. Most interesting is his success in producing what was practically "certified milk" on an estate in the Serra do Mar above Santos. He reports southern Brazil as in the main delightful, but lacking for the Germans in spiritual life. For instance, he was able to attend worship under a proper Lutheran pastor only once in seventeen years, a hardship, we might venture to remind him, that does not befall his countrymen who emigrate to the United States.

MARK JEFFERSON.